

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 88

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 156

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 88—Relative to Valley Fever Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 19, 2004.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 88, Ashburn. Valley Fever Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim August 2004, as Valley Fever Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Valley fever (coccidioidomycosis), a progressive, multisymptom, respiratory disorder, is a debilitating disease; and

WHEREAS, It is caused by the inhalation of tiny airborne fungi that live in soil, but are released into the air by soil disturbance or wind; and

WHEREAS, Valley fever attacks the respiratory system, causing infection that can lead to symptoms that resemble a cold, influenza, or pneumonia-like symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Left untreated or mistreated, infection can spread from the lungs into the bloodstream, causing inflammation to the skin, permanent damage to lung and bone tissue, and swelling of the membrane surrounding the brain, leading to meningitis, which can be devastating and even fatal; and

WHEREAS, Once serious symptoms of valley fever appear, including pneumonia and labored breathing, treatment must be prompt with antifungal drugs that are disagreeable and often toxic, especially for patients who have it injected beneath the base of their skulls for meningitis, causing side effects such as nausea, fever, and kidney damage; and

WHEREAS, Within California alone, valley fever is found in portions of the Sacramento Valley, all of the San Joaquin Valley, desert regions, and portions of southern California; and

WHEREAS, Valley fever most seriously affects the young, the elderly, those with lowered immune systems, and those of African-American and Filipino descent; and

WHEREAS, Valley fever has been a disease studied for the past 100 years, but still remains impossible to control and difficult to treat; and

WHEREAS, There is no known cure to date for valley fever; however, researchers are closer than they ever have been in finding a much needed vaccine to cure this devastating disease; and

WHEREAS, The research effort to find a vaccine and the funding partnership, including funding from the State of California, was approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor Wilson in 1997; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature does hereby proclaim August 2004, as Valley Fever Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

